

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 30 1982**

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC PUEBLO GRANDE de NEVADA

AND/OR COMMON

"Lost City"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SE of Overton
N1/2/SE1/4, Section 3, T. 17 S., R. 68 E., NW1/4/4NW1/4, Section
2, T. 17 S., R. 68 E., S1/2/SE1/4, Section 34 T. 16 S., R. 68 E.,

CITY, TOWN

4 1/2 miles Southeast
Overton, N.E. of Overton

VICINITY OF

STATE
NevadaCODE
032

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Nevada-at-large

COUNTY
ClarkCODE
003**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

Bureau of Reclamation

National Park Service
Lake Mead National
Recreation Area

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Lower Colorado Region

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 427

CITY, TOWN

Boulder City

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

89005

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clark

(and same as in #4)

STREET & NUMBER

200 Carson Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

STATE

Nevada

89101

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of the Muddy River Valley, 1929

Survey of the Lower Muddy River Valley, 1941

DATE

1929, 1941

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL PrivateDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Southwest Museum

National Park Service
Western Archeological Center

CITY, TOWN

San Diego, California

STATE

Tucson, Arizona

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site (26CK2148) is a small part of a five mile long dense Pueblo/Basketmaker complex known as Pueblo Grande de Nevada or "Lost City" which is situated along the lower end of the Muddy River. This particular section has been designated the "Main Ridge Locality" by Lyneis (1980) and consists of 46 small multiroomed masonry pueblos which she considers to have been the remains of a single community occupied concurrently.

Pueblo Grande was discovered by John and Fay Perkins of Overton, Nevada in 1924 who brought it to the attention of Governor James Scrugham. The Governor contacted Mark R. Harrington, who was working in Northern Nevada, to investigate the ruins. The Perkins led Harrington to the Main Ridge Locality and it was here that the first excavations from 1924-1926 were carried out. The area saw no further work for 55 years until Dr. Margaret Lyneis conducted a surface collection and mapped the existing structures in January, 1980.

The Muddy River offers a unique riverine environment in an area which would otherwise limit the agricultural activities and growth of a population. There is a continuity of settlement by peoples from the pre-christian era to A.D. 1150 when the Anasazi abandoned the area to the ⁴. The exact chronology remains clouded in question because of the lack of absolute dates on the materials recovered from Pueblo Grande. This leaves the population movements within the valley at any given time also unclear. What is clear, however, is that this settlement is the southern-most extension of the Virgin Branch of the Anasazi and the westernmost extension of the Anasazi culture.

The site is situated on two parallel fingers of land that were originally part of the terrace system overlooking the lower Virgin River. Today Lake Mead has inundated the lower Virgin Valley and at the present lake level (1,200 feet above sea level, May, 1980) the water is at the base of the site. The fingers of land slope up from the water's edge. They are composed of an easily eroded silt deposit that is capped with a thin bed of sandstone. The individual masonry rooms are situated both on the sandstone slabs and on the flats where the sandstone has eroded away. Construction is of sandstone masonry and adobe. At present the walls stand one or two courses high. They tend to be irregularly shaped, with both groups of contiguous rooms and isolated rooms being common. The rooms tend to be small, averaging about 3 meters square or less (see attached map, "plate 25").

Because of the nature of deposits underlying the structures, erosion has been extensive for some of the structures, particularly those nearest the lake. Nevertheless much of the integrity of the site is left. Also, there still is an abundance of surface artifactual material (pottery, lithics) present. Lyneis (1980) observed that Harrington's backdirt and residual cultural deposits, which contain a good deal of information, are still present.

Harrington's work at this and other sites has been summarized by Richard Shutler in Lost City: Pueblo Grande de Nevada (Nevada State Museum Anthropological Paper, No. 4, 1961).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☒ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site's significance lies in the area of prehistoric archeology. This particular section of Pueblo Grande de Nevada may represent a late Pueblo II Virgin Branch Anasazi occupation of the Muddy River Valley (Lyneis 1980). This valley represents a true frontier situation in that it is the westernmost extension of the Anasazi culture, the only such Pueblo community in the State of Nevada. Pueblo Grande has great potential for adding data concerning this frontier setting and its intra and extraregional relationships, subsistence, house construction, settlement pattern, and a culture's response to change--environmental and social. It also has potential for providing information on ecologic ~~adaptations~~ of an agriculturally based culture in a unique riparian setting. This information has inherent value for community planning and understanding the process of change in today's society. The site can yield data concerning the chronological question of southern Nevada, and its position in the Virgin Branch sequence which may refine the sequence itself.

One important area of significance lies in the interpretive value of Pueblo Grande. Because the site is in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and does receive frequent visitation, Lyneis (1980) suggests that the site be utilized for public education by placing unobtrusive informational signs explaining the nature of the site with warnings on collection and disturbance to house walls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lyneis, Margaret

1980 Archaeological data recovery at Main Ridge, Pueblo Grande de Nevada.

Report on file, Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Shutler, Richard Jr.

Lost City: Pueblo Grande de Nevada.

Nevada State Museum Anthropological
Papers No. 5, Carson City.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 93.5(37.8 ha)

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 73540.0 404100.0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 11 73550.0 404175.0

B 11 73490.0 404145.0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 11 73575.0 404160.0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the proposed area were delineated to include downslope areas likely to contain residual materials as well as for precision of identification. The shoreline of Lake Mead and the total lack of predictability of those fluctuations coupled with the erosion and changing of landmarks caused by the fluctuation resulted in the choice of UTM coordinates as a precise method of description. The same rationale led to the rejection of a verbal boundary description as an unworkable or imprecise method under these changing circumstances.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE James C. Maxon
Regional Archeologist

Lysenda Kirkberg, Graduate
Student, Dept. of Anthropology

ORGANIZATION Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region

DATE

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 427

4505 Maryland Parkway

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boulder City, Nevada 89005

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

Primi Rodden
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edward F. Sheehy

TITLE Preservation Officer, Bureau of Reclamation

DATE 6-25-82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

10/8/82

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mr. Harrington worked for two seasons at Main House under the sponsorship of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. The project was terminated in 1926.

Little record was left regarding Harrington's excavation techniques. Photographs taken at the time of excavation by the Nevada Highway Department indicate that the interior of the structures was cleared, exposing walls and floors. There is no evidence of backdirt piles, it is likely that the spoil was dumped off the edges of the ridge.

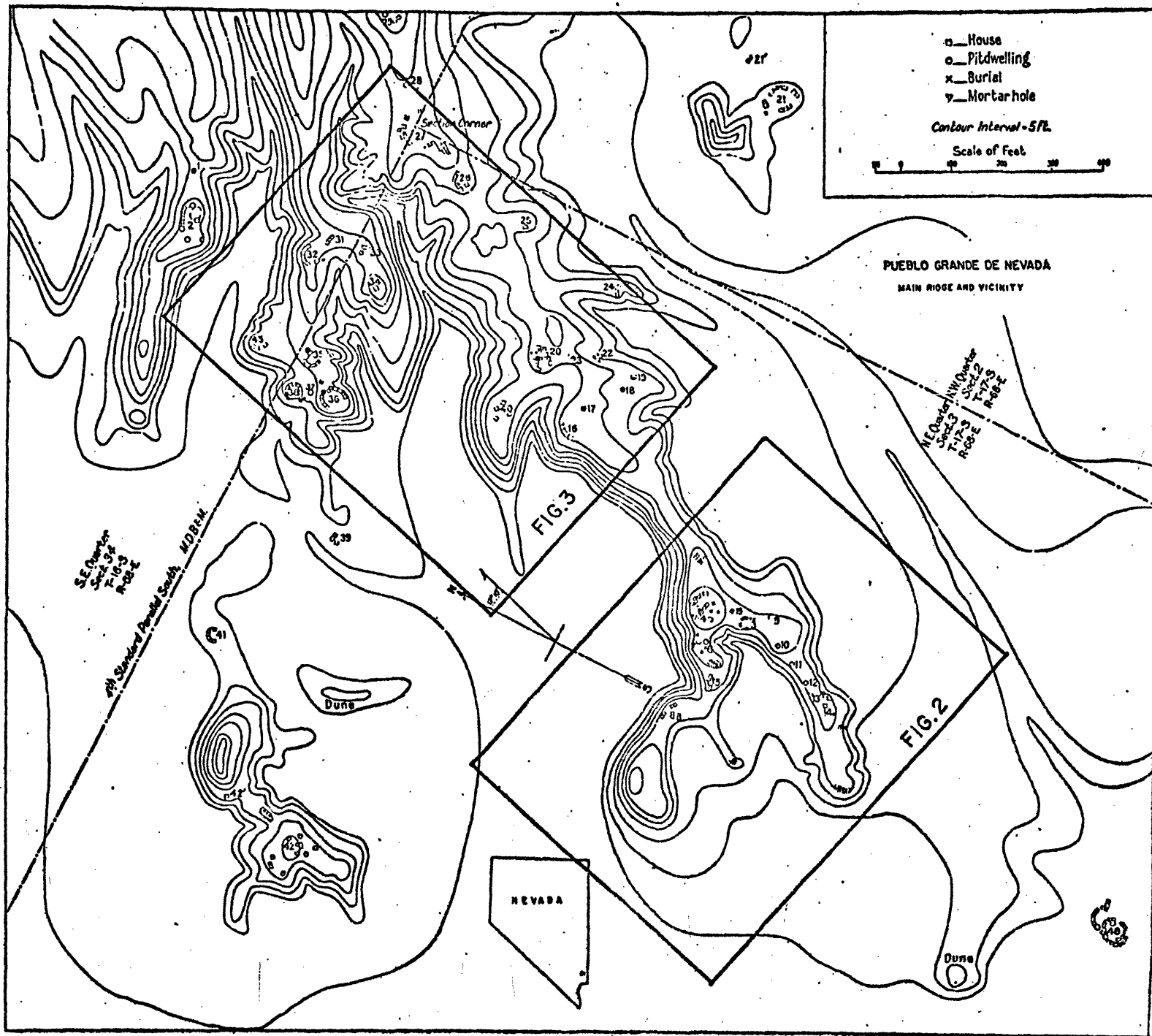
The material on the surface of the site is more or less in place. Apparently this is the residue of the unexcavated deposits that were outside of the structures, and therefore was not disturbed by Harrington's excavations. If this is correct, then controlled surface collections are meaningful in that they will yield locational information which can be associated with the structures at the site.

The subsurface artifacts would yield a less biased sample compared to the probable skewed distribution of the collection of exposed surface artifacts.

The possible depth and extent of the residual deposits is unknown as no excavations, testing or otherwise, have been done since Harrington's work in 1926.

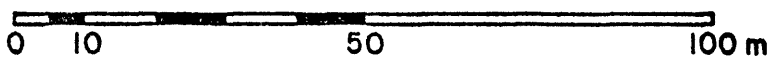
Although there has been no subsequent excavation since 1926, the area has undergone light visitation from local people as well as visitors to Lake Mead, who wander over the structures and collect pottery and other artifacts. With one exception, there has been no "potholing" or vandalism.

The resources which are occasionally (every other decade) inundated by Lake Mead have unique research potential for the study of the effects of intermittent inundation and the resultant erosion. Under criteria "4" of 36 CFR Part 800, this should qualify that portion of the resource for inclusion.



After Lyneis (1980)
Map of Main Ridge, Pueblo Grande de Nevada,
after Shutler (1961:Plate 25).

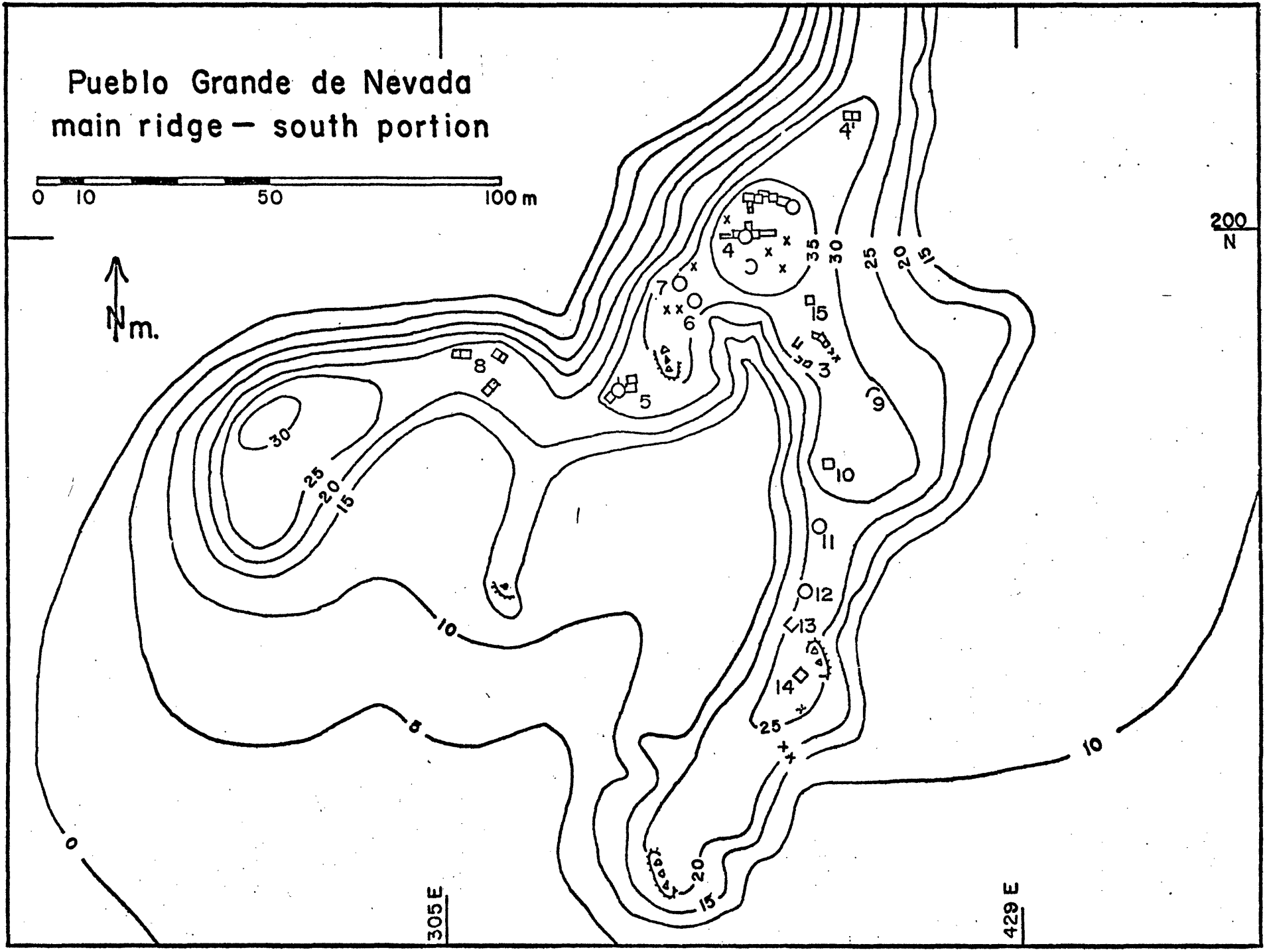
Pueblo Grande de Nevada main ridge — south portion



200
N

305 E

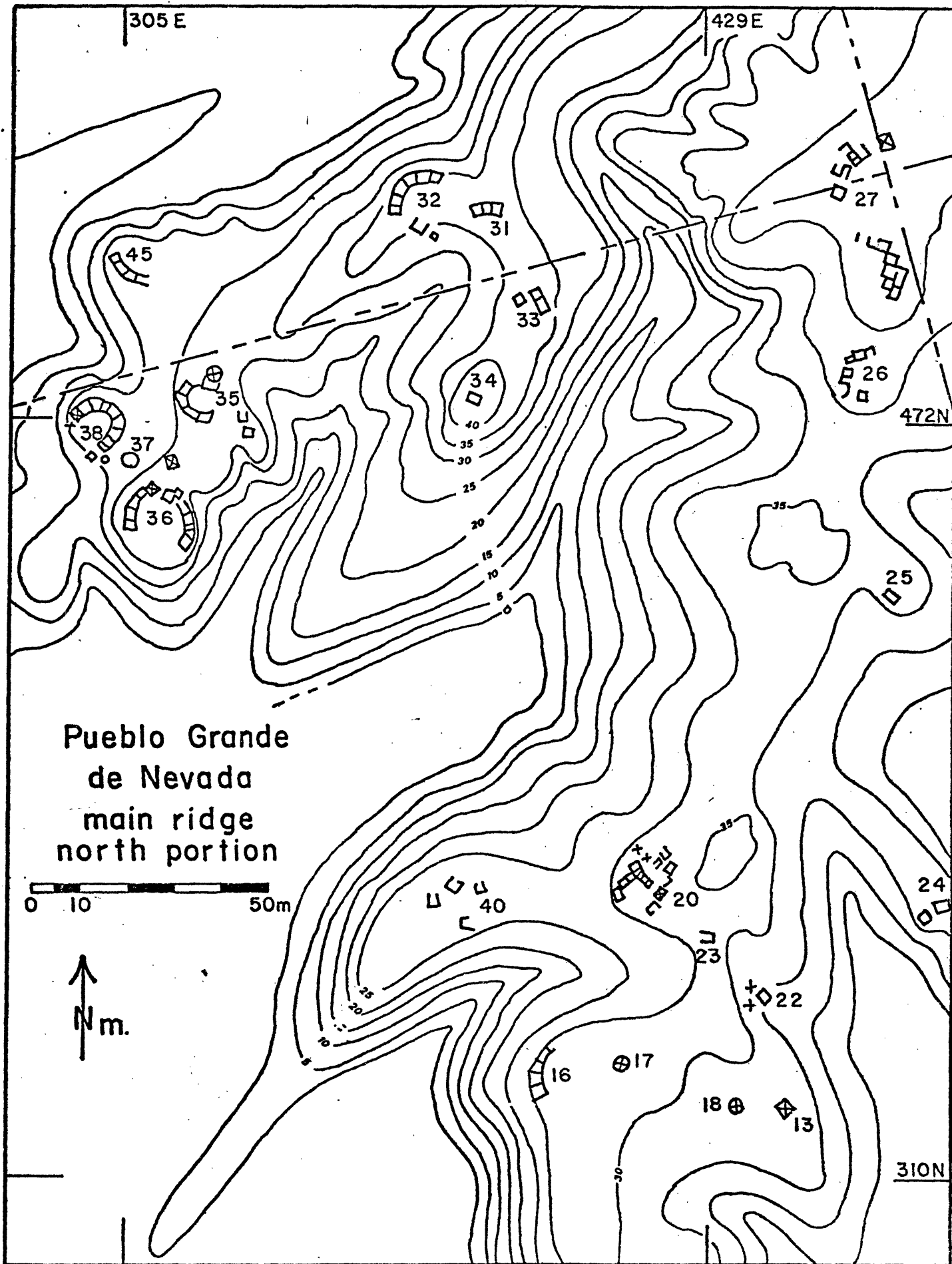
429 E



After Lyneis (1980)

Map of south portion of Main Ridge, Pueblo Grande de Nevada.

Redrawn from an enlargement of Plate 25 in Shutler (1961).



After Lyneis (1980)
 Map of north portion of Main Ridge, Pueblo Grande de Nevada.
 Redrawn from an enlargement of Plate 25 in Shutler (1961).